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27 May 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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South Korea: Brigadier General Kim Yun-kun, commander of the marine unit which participated in the 16 May coup and one of the leaders of the revolutionary group, has asserted to American Embassy officers that the junta intends to develop a group of young civilian leaders to whom control of the government will be transferred, "possibly after two years." Kim claims that the leaders just ousted were steeped in political thought alien to democratic concepts, while the younger generation, educated in the post-1945 period, is "strongly devoted to the ideas of democracy." He also views the junta as a "shield" which will permit the existing government bureaucracy to carry out its functions free from political pressures, blackmail, and corruption. General Kim has confirmed that dissension exists within the junta, deriving largely from attempts by the younger officers to establish a virtually permanent military dictatorship.

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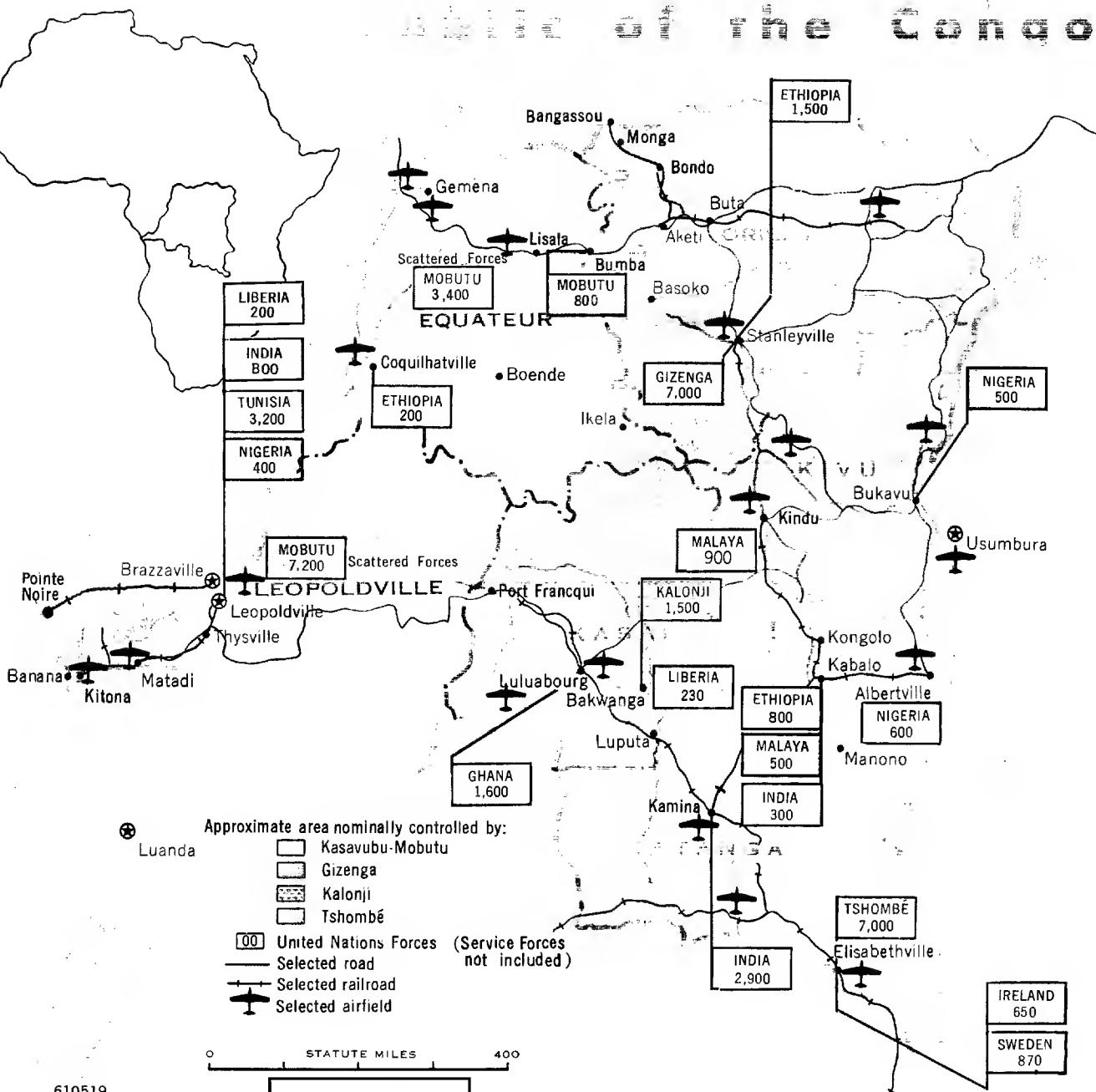
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DAILY BRIEF

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Congo: Ambassador Timberlake believes that Gizenga will try to prevent the convening of parliament by Kasavubu and, if unsuccessful, will seek to delay any parliamentary session while attempting to line up support in the Congo and abroad. The ambassador adds that should parliament nevertheless meet, Gizenga will boycott the session and attempt to discredit its activities. The ambassador observes that any effort by Kasavubu to conciliate Gizenga would probably be fruitless.)

(Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak has told Ambassador Mac-Arthur that he is determined to begin the withdrawal of Belgians from the Congo, and that 49 Belgian advisers--mostly in Katanga--are to be recalled shortly. Spaak reaffirmed that he desired the withdrawal of all Belgian military personnel and "most" political advisers; he insisted, however, that Belgium was responsible for the safety of its nationals, and criticized Hammarskjold for dismissing Belgian fears with the legalistic argument that the UN is now responsible for the maintenance of order in the Congo.)

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Officials of the influential Union Miniere mining firm in Katanga reportedly have appealed to the UN to retain Belgian officers in the Katanga army, or face the immediate closure of local mines and the collapse of the Katanga economy. Such expressions reflect continuing Belgian apprehension regarding a possible breakdown of discipline in the Katanga army.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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Nepal: After six months of personal rule by King Mahendra, conditions in Nepal continue to deteriorate, in terms of both economic stability and effectiveness of government. However, recent assessments by the American Embassy at Katmandu [redacted] suggest that while there is valid cause for concern, the threat to the King's position is neither as great nor as immediate as exiled Nepali Congress party resistance leaders in India have recently portrayed

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[redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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South Korean Situation

Arrests of leftist elements, especially members of teachers' unions, continue to be numerous in the North and South Kyongsang provinces, which have been regarded as hotbeds of subversive elements. Thus far, military courts have convicted 45 civilians for violating the ban against public assembly and imposed sentences ranging from 3 to 12 months. Trials of some 1,200 "hoodlums" have commenced, and it is expected that most will be sentenced to hard labor in the National Construction Service program. Members of former Prime Minister Chang Myon's cabinet were removed from prison to house arrest with the exception of two accused of financial irregularities.

Labor unions have been disbanded by SCNR decree and business conditions remain stagnant because of the stringent measures imposed on the withdrawal of bank deposits. One bank president has commented that the SCNR seems more concerned with denying funds to potential opponents than with curbing illicit accumulations of wealth. Retail grain prices have remained at near pre-coup levels.

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